

occurred, but he knew he had written a memo reflecting the conversation.⁴¹⁰ Babbitt did not recall any other input or contact from the White House on this issue. He has no recollection of any contact from any Democratic campaign organizations, to either himself or his staff, either before or after the decision.

Babbitt said he had no direct contact with lobbyists on the Pequot issue and he had no information as to whether anyone on his staff was contacted.⁴¹¹ He said he had met Chris McNeil, a Pequot lobbyist, once or twice at meetings, either on the reform of IGRA or for the National Congress of American Indians. He was unsure whether McNeil is a member of the tribe or its lobbyist.

Babbitt said he is now aware that the Pequots have made campaign contributions on the federal and state level and to the DNC. At the time their application was pending at Interior, Babbitt said he suspects the Pequots were in the press a lot; he believed that the tribe had been politically active in the 1992 campaign, but he had no specific recollection of seeing any items in

⁴¹⁰Babbitt identified this memo as one dated Feb. 23, 1996. The memo indicated Pequot Chairman Hayward "got what the Tribe wanted – acreage taken into trust for casino expansion. Because of intense local controversy, and the concerns of Senators Lieberman and Dodd we structured the transaction so that the parties could have their day in Court in a direct appeal, rather than being forced to seek to TRO on the front end. He [Hayward] has no reason to complain; he should be grateful for our getting a very sticky issue resolved in his favor."

⁴¹¹Duffy gave a deposition in civil litigation over DOI's decision in the Pequot matter in which he said Babbitt met several times with Guy Martin, a lawyer who represented parties opposed to the acquisition, and that Babbitt received calls from Sen. Dodd and Sen. Lieberman. Duffy testified that Babbitt had asked Duffy to "monitor" the Pequot trust acquisition, and Duffy understood that instruction resulted from contact between Martin and the Secretary. *State of Conn. v. Bruce Babbitt, et al.* Deposition of John Duffy, March 28, 1996, at 91-92. He also recalled participating in a conference call with Babbitt, Lieberman, Dodd, the Pequot leaders, Martin, local legislators and community officials to discuss a mediation process in the Pequot dispute, which Babbitt then asked Duffy to oversee. Media reports reflect that this was an extremely controversial issue in Connecticut.